

TORRANCE HERALD

TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 1940

SECTION B

This Business of Leap Year

Extra Day In 1940 Gives Gals Chance to 'Pop the Question'

By CAROL TULLER

Believe it or not, a year is not really a year! And here's how come: The number of revolutions the earth makes when it goes 'round the sun, instead of being a whole number, is a number and a fraction. Thus, the earth makes a round trip around the sun not in 365, but rather in 365 days, five hours, 48 minutes and 46 seconds. All of which adds up to make a year in Torrance, and other countries roundabout, 365 1/4 days instead of just the traditional 365 days.

This accounts for 1940 being leap year inasmuch as our present Gregorian calendar, figuratively speaking, takes a "leap" of one whole day every fourth year to make up for its ordinary year being one-quarter of a day too short. And by this same reasoning, the years 2000 and 2400, and all other years divisible by four, will also be Leap Years.

How It Happened
So, gals, here's your chance! But if you don't make it this year, don't lose heart, Remember! there'll always be grandpa in 2000!

However gallant as is this delicate privilege accorded on Leap Year to the fairer half of creation, it could all have been avoided had the earth had any respect for round numbers.

Julius Caesar recognized the unevenness of the earth's rotations around the sun, and tried to rectify matters by introducing the Justinian calendar.

However, Old Man Earth, this time, instead of being overtime, performed his solar revolution in 11 minutes less time than Caesar arranged for. And then it was that Pope Gregory III, on March 1, 1582, effected a reformation of Caesar's calendar making the year 1600 our very first Leap Year.

Old Legend Recalled
As for the origin of the phase of Leap Year in which most of the fairer sex are interested, St. Patrick and St. Bridget must be accorded honors. And here's the story.

Legend has it that St. Patrick was one day perambulating the shores of Laugh Neagh when he was suddenly accosted by St. Bridget who, midst tears and lamentations informed him that dissension had risen among the ladies in her nunnery over the fact that they were deprived of the privilege of "popping the question."

St. Patrick, being himself a stern and single fellow, was so moved by her plea, that he offered to concede to the ladies the privilege of proposing one year in every seven. But, at that, St. Bridget demurred and, throwing her arms about his neck, exclaimed, "Patrick, jewel, I darn't go back to the gurls wid such a proposal. Make it wan year in four!"

To which St. Patrick replied, "Squeeze me that way again, and I'll give you Leap Year the longest one of the lot."

Must Pay Penalty
Thus encouraged, St. Bridget thought immediately of her own husbandless condition and popped the question to St. Patrick himself. But the best he could do for St. Bridget was a kiss and a gown.

And ever since then, if a man refuses a Leap Year proposal, he must pay the same penalty as did old St. Pat, and present his lady fair a kiss and a gown.

Motorist Smacks Yule Light Pole

This city's extensive Yuletide street lighting decorations came thru the holidays with only minor mishaps. Two of the standards holding up the strings of colored globes were fractured, the last one being snapped New Year's night at the intersection of Cravens avenue and Torrance boulevard. This was struck by a car driven by C. E. Goodner of Long Beach.

House Sparrows Counted
CANTON, O. (U.P.)—A count of house sparrows will be taken for the first time by the Neo-Naturalist society in its sixth annual bird census. Figures obtained will be used in a study to determine whether the species is becoming a menace.

Torrance Hi News Notes by ELIZABETH FISH

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Seems as if some students aren't sickles during vacations. Adeline Livermore visited relatives for a week in Grass Valley; Harry York visited his aunt and uncle who live in San Francisco; Ethel Shimnich went with a group of friends to Santa Barbara on the train; Eva Marie Peer has as a house guest Thelma Wolfe, an ex-student of T. H. S. Thelma now lives in Arizona.

Mary, Dorothy, and Sammy Intermill visited relatives in Pasadena; Lillian Prince with her family spent several days camping and hunting on the Mojave Desert; Alma Preston spent a week with her relatives in Fresno and Marcella Smith helped entertain house guests for a week. Ruth Pankey and Anne McAnnally with many others attended the Rose Parade.

We were glad to see Charlie Steadman back to school after being in an automobile accident. Lonnie Lee spent Christmas with his parents in Tonopah, Nevada; Elsie Ward frolicked in the snow at Big Pines with a group of friends; Ruth Young visited relatives in San Diego. Those attending a Christmas Eve party at a Los Angeles theatre were Lucy Briganti, Chappy Peters, Charles Grubbs, Doris Martin, Gerald Grubb and Marian Spehger.

Spending an enjoyable day on the Wertzala yacht were Vivian Wertzala, Ruth and Harold Kerber, Bill Buckley and Mr. Wertzala. Virginia Hill was one of the few students lucky enough to see "Gone With the Wind." Mr. Elson spent his vacation building cabinets for his kitchen.

SUB-DEBS PARTY
A Christmas party of the Sub-Debs was held at Irene Finley's home. Those present were Marcella Smith, Elaine Foster, Connie Fernley, Barbara Evans, Irene Finley, Beverly Roeland and Anne Kinnison.

TEENERS AT SHOW
A group of the "Teeners" had quite an enjoyable time last Thursday. They went to Los Angeles where they had lunch and then attended a show. They were Marjorie Rusk, Reba Matthews, Virginia Zamperini, Jenoyne Barkdull, Shirley Gutfelder, Marian Robinson, Anne McAnnally, Vera Mae Weber, Margaret Moon, Hazel Burchett, Ruth Pankey, and Elizabeth Fish.

County Wants Rule On Employment of Ex-Convicts

Shall or shall not Los Angeles County employ ex-convicts?

This question must be decided by the County Civil Service Commission following reference of the subject to it by the board of Supervisors. The matter came before the board when it became known that several asserted ex-convicts were working at the County Hospital.

Supervisor John Anson Ford voiced his objection to barring employment of these persons if they had paid their debt to society and sought to live clean lives. He held that they should be given their chance. The matter was referred by the Board to the Civil Service Commission with instructions to bring in a report.

BOTTLE CRASHES DOOR
A boy is believed responsible for the throwing of an empty whiskey bottle thru the front door of an apartment at 1630 Arlington avenue, occupied by a Mrs. Williams, last Friday morning. The damage was reported to police by C. M. North, owner of the apartment.



ALASKAN TRAIL BLAZERS... This bearded pair, John T. Logan on left and Slim Williams, are shown at Seattle, at conclusion of a historic first trip with mail over the overland route which will become the Alaska-Seattle highway. Next to Logan is Congressman Warren T. Magnuson and Ernest Gruening, new Alaska governor. Pair used motorcycles.

Year End Statement

By E. R. STETTINIUS, JR.

Chairman of the Board, U. S. Steel Corporation

We look forward to the new Year encouraged by the substantial improvement which has taken place in the steel industry during the past four months. A sharp upward movement in steel operations began early in September, due chiefly to domestic demand for needs that had been accumulating for some time, with an added stimulus from increasing foreign inquiries. This is particularly pleasing to us because it gives opportunity for increased earnings and employment to thousands of our steel workers who suffered a curtailment of employment when business fell off so sharply in the latter part of 1937. Likewise, after many months of lean earnings, we are gratified at the prospect, at current rates of activity, of improved returns on our large investment in plants and facilities.



E. R. STETTINIUS, JR.
Industry prays for peace

12 Patients Enter Hospital

Twelve patients were received at Torrance Memorial hospital during the past week. The first one to be bedded in 1940 was Laura Smelser of Los Angeles, who entered New Year's Day for surgery. Other new patients were:

Heber Brooks, Wilmington, for surgery, Tuesday; Mrs. LaVina Bubeck, Lawndale, for medical treatment of injuries suffered in an automobile collision in Redondo Beach, Dec. 29; Mrs. Virginia Hinrichs, North Hollywood, for medical care, Dec. 31; Miss Christine Miller, Redondo Beach, for an appendectomy, Tuesday; Charles A. Norman, Redondo Beach, for medical care, Tuesday, and Elmo Pyle, Gardena motor officer, for treatment of injuries suffered Dec. 30 when he fell or was knocked from his motorcycle on Gardena boulevard at Vermont Place.

Robert Ray, of Lomita, for injuries suffered in a Gardena motor collision, Dec. 31; Amos Simpson, North Redondo Beach, for treatment of injuries suffered when he fell from a roof while doing a painting job and fractured his right leg, Dec. 28; Ted Stevens, Manhattan Beach, for surgery, Dec. 28; Robert Stark, Wilmington for surgery, Tuesday, and Mrs. Rosalee Warren, 1229 1/2 Arlington avenue, for medical care, Dec. 27.

Children Name Lion Cubs
PHILADELPHIA (U.P.)—The Philadelphia Zoo's new lion cubs have been named Wynken, Blynken and Nod.

Holmes Pleads Not Guilty to Forgery Counts

Bert Holmes changed his mind again yesterday morning when he appeared in Superior Court for arraignment on two check forgery charges and plead not guilty. His trial was set for Jan. 24 in Department 45 and he was returned to the county jail where he has been confined since Dec. 8, 1939.

Holmes, a resident here since 1934, had admitted his guilt in forging three checks when he waived preliminary hearing of his case before City Judge Robert Lessing here early last month. At that time he was bound over to the Superior Court and jailed in default of \$2,500 bail.

In an earlier brush with the law, this occurring Oct. 20, 1939, Holmes plead not guilty to a drunk driving charge and demanded a jury trial. Later he changed his mind, plead guilty and was fined \$50 which he paid. Because of a prior felony conviction, for grand theft of an auto in 1933, he is not eligible for parole if found guilty of the forgery counts and a prison sentence is mandatory.

He is accused of forging the name of Gladys Downing, secretary of the Torrance Building Company of which he was vice-president, to three checks totaling \$200. At his arraignment here he declared he "must have been drunk" when he wrote the checks.

Three Elections During Year

Thirty-four cities of the sixth class, including Torrance, will hold elections during the coming year. In addition there will be a combined state and national primary and a combined state and national election.

The election for cities of the sixth class is scheduled on April 2. Residents of those cities must be registered voters by Feb. 28. Persons who have moved since the last election are required to re-register.

The presidential primary election occurs on May 7 and the election for both National and State officers will occur on Nov. 5. Voters must register by March 28 to vote in the presidential primary.

Reapportionment Appears Certain

The probability that California will gain from three to five more congressional districts upon the basis of the 1940 census appears certain. The population increase in 1940 over 1930 will be considerable and Congress is expected to make a reapportionment in 1941. If this should be done, the state legislature would be called upon to designate which counties would receive the new solons.

WHAT THEY THINK OF US
A Kansas man who has just returned from California says that the state is a land of lemons, prunes and nuts.

\$150 Building Permit Is Final One of Year

The final building permit of 1939 was issued to Nellie H. Pohl for a wood frame warehouse, 14 x 46 feet in size, costing \$150 at 3910 Redondo Beach boulevard. She intends to use the structure as a storage place for corrugated chicken crates.

Wooldridge Herald Circulation Mgr. Writes

Doing business without advertising is like winking at a girl in the dark—you know what you are doing but nobody else does.

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SEEMS LIKE YESTERDAY

By C. KESSLER



WHEN DAD MADE A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION.

Toothbrush Handle Clock Said to Run Perfectly

It took five months to do it but an anonymous watchmaker in Folsom prison made a clock that ran perfectly with nothing more than toothbrush handles. The patient prisoner had an ancient book on horology and set out to duplicate in celluloid what the 15th century watchmakers did with wood. The clock stands but 5 1/2 inches high, 3 1/4 inches wide, and 2 inches deep. Some miscellaneous weights are the only non-celluloid substance used.

GUARD INCREASES
The California National Guard gained 1,758 personnel since Oct. 1, bringing the total strength to 9,049 out of a total allotted strength of 9,394.

PRISONERS LABOR
Prisoners in county detention camps built 9.21 miles of roads in mountains during the last fiscal year and excavated 1,189,692 cubic yards of material.

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